

in Bow was probably built, as we have said, in the reign of William the Conqueror. The fact that this latter church was formerly called *New Mary Church* is, however, somewhat confirmatory of the statement.\*

In 1510, Sir Henry Kible, lord mayor of London, began to rebuild the church. His epitaph, formerly in the old building, calls him,—

"A famous worthy wight,  
Which did this Aldermay Church  
Reest and set upright."

Before this edifice was completed he died, but in order that no hindrance might arise, he had bequeathed one thousand pounds to finish it.† The tower was rebuilt in 1629, at the cost of one thousand pounds. The church having been destroyed by the fire of 1666, with the exception of the tower, was restored by Sir Christopher Wren in 1631, a sum equal to 5,000*l.* being furnished for that purpose by the widow of one Henry Rogers, in pursuance of his will, which directed that this amount should be expended in the erection or repairs of some church. An inscription in Latin over the west door of the edifice records this benefaction. The tower appears to have been repaired, and in part rebuilt at this time; but in 1703, two of the new turrets were blown down during a storm which then occurred. In 1711, the upper part of it was altogether rebuilt, the expense being defrayed from the fund raised by a duty on coals.

The church erected by Wren is supposed to be a copy of the old building, and may, indeed, include some of the old work. The aisles are separated from the nave by clustered columns bearing very flat arches, so slightly pointed as to appear at first sight to be segments of a circle. From a string course over the arches, smaller shafts proceed up the face of the clerestory above, and from these springs elaborate imitation fan groining forming the ceiling. In the centre of the ceiling are large circular panels deeply indented, containing an ornamental flower in the middle of each, the whole quite distinct in character from that which the building is intended to bear. This is also the case with the shields and foliage which ornament the spandrills of the main arches.‡ The chancel is curiously extended on the north side, so as to render the east end of it very far from forming a right angle with the side walls, and thus to give a distorted appearance to this end of the building.

Before we come out, let us take a morsel of wisdom from one of the tablets on the wall,— "Learn, reader, that the painful scholar can alone become the able teacher."

The tower is curious as a specimen of very late pointed work, and has a certain air of grandeur, though it disappoints examination.

Gerard's Hall, in Basing-lane, with its very extensive crypt, was the last place named for examination, as here the party were afterwards to dine. Stow says of Gerard's Hall, I read that John Gisore, mayor of London in the year 1245, was owner thereof, and that Sir John Gisore, constable of the Tower, 1311,

and divers others of that name and family since that time owned it. So it appeareth that this Gisore's Hall of late time, by corruption, hath been called Gerard's Hall for Gisore's Hall." The end of the thirteenth century would probably not be too early a date to give the crypt. The columns and groins are of stone, the vaults of chalk. It was originally very lofty, about 16 feet high, perhaps, to the crown of the arches, but there is now about 3 feet of ground in it, so that, except at one part, where it has been removed, the bases of the columns cannot be seen. This very interesting remnant of ancient London comes in the line of the intended new street, and as it would stand somewhat above the general level, is threatened with destruction. We sincerely hope, however, that efforts will be made to retain it, and have reason to believe that this will be the case. A trifling rise in the road would be overlooked on such grounds.

At the dinner, Mr. Pettigrew expressed the wishes of the Association on this head. Mr. Bunning, in reply, spoke of the difficulties in the way of preserving antiquities, of which the public were sometimes not aware, and said as to the crypt in question, that it should be preserved if possible.

Mr. Saunders, the comptroller, whose health was drunk as the preserver of the Lady Chapel of St. Saviour's, Southwark, referred to the miserable condition of other parts of that church. He also spoke forcibly of the encroachments made on the banks of the Thames,—the destruction of a wharfrage, 40 feet wide, from the Tower to the Temple, which had been paid for by the public,—and he urged the necessity of a watchful supervision. To this growing evil we have several times drawn attention. The Corporation themselves are not blameless.

The visit to the City, it will be seen, was full of interest, and may be repeated with advantage. Let the Association parcel it into sections, and see it all,—

"Far as loud Bow's stupendous bells resound."

#### AN ACCOUNT OF THE GUILDHALL OF THE CITY OF LONDON.

THE ravages of the Great Fire of London in 1666, and the destruction attendant upon modern improvement, have unfortunately left but few edifices within the City which can claim an antiquity greater than that of the present Guildhall. It is much to be regretted that in a structure of such importance as the seat and centre of local authority, and of the administration of a wealthy and influential corporation, there is not more harmony subsisting between the several parts of the hall itself and the buildings connected with it. Though this circumstance affects in some degree the interest attendant upon its inspection, there are still features enough left to render it worthy of attentive examination, especially in connection with some of the historical associations which properly belong to the place.

The citizens of London having been from the very earliest period a self-governing community have probably never been without a stated place of assemblage for municipal purposes, such as we understand under the name of a guildhall. There seems some reason to believe that a building of the kind existed as early as the reign of Edward the Confessor.† It has frequently been asserted that the Guildhall has always stood upon the same site, but this is clearly a mistake, as is apparent by the account given by Stow in his "Surveys of London." Speaking of the street called

Aldermanbury, he says:—"This street took the name of Alderman's burie (which is to say, a Court), there kept in their bery or court-hall, now called the Guildhall, which hall of old time stood on the east side of the same streete not farre from the west end of Guildhall now used." In proof of the antiquity of this "old Alderman's bery or court," he then quotes a deed by which Richd. Kenery, one of the sheriffs in the year 1189, gave to the Church of St. Mary, at Osney, by Oxford, "certaine grounds and roots in Aldermanbery of London, as entered in the hustinges of the Guildhall in London." Stow then adds—"this olde bery, court, or hall continued, and the Courts of the Mayor and Aldermen were continually holden there untill the new bery, court, or Guildhall that now is was builded and finished, which hall was first begun to be founded in the year 1411, and was not fully finished in twenty years after. I myselfe (he says) have seene the ruines of the old court-hall in Aldermanbery-streets, which of late hath been employed as a carpenter's yard," &c.

It would be easy to quote from the records of the corporation, and the ancient chronicles of London, many events of municipal interest and importance which took place in this old Guildhall, but we proceed to notice the erection of the present hall. Stow in another part of his Survey says:—"Thomas Knoles Grocer, mayor, 1410, with his brethren the aldermen, began to new build the Guildhall in London, and instead of an olde little cottage in Aldermanberie-street, made a faire and goodly house more neare unto Saint Laurence Church in the Jarie."

In this passage not only is the alteration in the site of the building again mentioned, but it is also evident from it that the new hall was far more spacious than the old one. And the same thing appears by a subsequent notice, in which Stow, quoting Fabian, says:—"The same was made of a little cottage a large and great house as now it standeth, towards the charges whereof the companies gave large benevolences: also offences of men were pardoned for sums of money towards this worke: extraordinary fees were rayed, fines, amercementes, and other thinges employed during seven yeares, with a continuance thereof three yeares more, all to be employed to the building." The celebrated Richard Whittington through his executors, was a considerable benefactor to the work, and other eminent citizens also contributed liberally towards it.

Some of the most striking events connected with the history of the present Guildhall independently of those of municipal or local interest only are the following:—

1483, 24th June.—The crazy attempt of Richard III. (through the Duke of Buckingham) to beguile the assembled citizens into approval of his usurpation of the royal dignity.

1546.—The trial of the youthful and accomplished Anne Askew on a charge of heresy preferred by command of Henry VIII., Bishop Bonner, and others of his bigoted councillors which ended in her condemnation, her torture on the rack, and her martyrdom in the flames of Smithfield, on 16th July.

1547.—The trial of the Earl of Surrey, one who was distinguished by every accomplishment which became a scholar, a courtier, and a soldier, and who, to gratify the malice of Henry VIII., was convicted of high treason.

1553, 13th Nov.—The trial and condemnation of the ill-fated Lady Jane Gray and her husband.

1554, 17th April.—The trial of Sir Nicholas Throgmorton on a charge of being implicated in Sir Thomas Wyatt's rebellion against Queen Mary; a trial which is described as the most interesting perhaps on record for the exhibition of intellectual power, and remarkable for the courage displayed by the jury in returning a verdict in opposition to the despotical wishes of the Court, though at the expense of imprisonment and fines.

1606, 28th March.—The trial and conviction of the Jesuit Garnet for participating in the Gunpowder Plot of Guido Fawkes and his associates.

1642, 5th Jan.—Charles I. attended at

\* The first rector of St. Mary Aldermay, mentioned by Kennet, was promoted before the year 1200.

† In 1136, some houses having been pulled down in Watling-street, up to the east end of the church, a building which was thought to be the crypt of the church erected by Kible was brought to light. Its course was from north to south about 50 feet in length. The width was 10 feet; it had five arches on each side.—*Guildhallman's Magazine*, vol. new, pt. ii. p. 200.

‡ The shields contain the arms of Mr. Rogers, and of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

\* Nichol's Brief Account of Guildhall, 1819, p. 1.